

The mission statement of New Covenant Academy is simple, "New Covenant Academy is a Christian college preparatory school committed to achieving Academic Excellence teaching Biblical Truth and developing Christ-like Character for students grades JK through 12th grade in the greater Springfield area." This is what that small group of dedicated parents wanted and envisioned when they set out to open this school in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, New Covenant Academy has served the Springfield area for the past 40 years. Over that time, they have provided Christian education to many students, and making a lasting impact on the lives of all who walk through their doors. They have achieved their goal through hard work and faith. I am pleased to rise today, honoring a truly tremendous school.

TRIBUTE TO VOCATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Vocational Development Center (Vodec) of Council Bluffs, Iowa. This year marks the 50th year of operations for the Center, which opened its doors in 1968.

Vodec was founded in Council Bluffs and employs nearly 380 people. This non-profit began as an advocacy group to provide a structured, safe, and sheltered work environment for children graduating from high school with disabilities. Since then, the organization has expanded into Nebraska and eastern Iowa and offers a variety of services including resident support, employment, job placement, and day habilitation. Steve Hodapp, Chief Executive Officer for Vodec said, "As the need for different services arises, we can respond to that. Our strategic plan is designed around being responsive to need. That's what our growth is all about."

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Vocational Development Center and its staff for providing cutting-edge services to disabled individuals in the Council Bluffs area, Nebraska, and throughout eastern Iowa for the past 50 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Vodec for their numerous achievements in helping those with disabilities. I wish Vodec and all of their employees continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS NATASHA BEDNARZ, ANDREA BISCOVEANU, ELIAV EHRENKRANTZ, JULIANA HEFFERN, ROBERT McDONOUGH, JAKE MEYERS, AND ALEXANDRA MILLER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 70 years, the Fulbright Program, estab-

lished by Congress and funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has forged connections between emerging leaders in the United States and across the globe. Since 1946, more than 380,000 individuals from the United States and over 180 countries have participated in the Fulbright Program. These individuals represent the excellence and diversity of the United States and other countries.

I rise today to recognize the prestigious accomplishments of students from my district who received Fulbright Scholarships for the 2017–2018 academic year:

Ms. Natasha Bednarz, Yardley, PA, Boston College, Armenia

Ms. Andrea Biscoveanu, Yardley, PA, Pennsylvania State University-University Park, Australia

Mr. Eliav Ehrenkrantz, New Hope, PA, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Russia

Ms. Juliana Heffern, Carversville, PA, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Malaysia

Mr. Robert McDonough, Trevoise, PA, La Salle University, Austria

Mr. Jake Meyers, Richboro, PA, Washington and Jefferson College, Cambodia

Ms. Alexandra Miller, Newtown, PA, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Argentina

These scholars make us tremendously proud. On behalf of all residents in the Eighth Congressional District, we congratulate them on their outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOR FLIGHT
OF GREATER LAFAYETTE AND
ITS FOUNDERS PAM MOW AND
DANA VANN

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, The Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette will host its twenty-second and final trip escorting America's Hoosier veterans to Washington, DC, to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service. I rise today to recognize this exceptional organization and the two remarkable women who have dedicated their hearts to its success.

Organization founders Pam Mow and Dana Vann are Gold Star Mothers. Dana's son Senior Airman John Morton, Jr., lost his life in Italy while serving in the Air Force on September 3, 2002. He was 22 years old. On April 12, 2007, Pam Mow lost her son Army Corporal Cody Putnam when he died in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 22 years old. These women have already sacrificed so much, yet for the past seven years, they have chosen to honor the lives and service of veterans through the Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette.

The first honor flight from Lafayette, Indiana, took place on April 16, 2012. Since that time over 1,800 veterans have departed the Purdue University Airport to arrive in Washington, D.C., where they and their guardians were able to visit the war memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Veterans have told me that viewing the monuments, which honor their service, is a very moving experience. Additionally, they really enjoyed receiving letters of appreciation from relatives, friends, and school children at "Mail Call" and being greeted by hundreds of patriotic, flag-waving Americans on the tarmac when their plane returned to Lafayette. One veteran expressed to me, "It was the best day of my life."

These once in a lifetime Hoosier veteran experiences are because of the dedication, leadership, and work of Pam Mow and Dana Vann. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their service to veterans and the community-at-large. It is truly an honor to congratulate them for the twenty-two successful trips of The Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette. May God bless Pam and Dana as they go forward with their lives.

HONORING SARA SEALANDER
WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara Sealander as a woman of the year. She is an artist, educator, and activist. She taught both Art History and Studio Art classes fulltime at Yuba Community College for 38 years and continues her work teaching as an adjunct professor of Art History. She has long been the leading voice for women in the arts in her community. She created the curriculum for the Women in the Arts classes she teaches, and which are now taught in other schools. She has mentored a whole generation of artists and art instructors in her community and remains passionate about the role of arts in education and society. Ms. Sealander's skill and passion for the arts goes beyond her work into activism. Fueled by threats to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, she organized public protests to educate the public about the importance of the NEA to society and its impact in our local community. She also founded a local chapter of Guerilla Girls, an international group of feminist activist artists who use their artistic talents to make social commentary. Ms. Sealander's activism works to promote the importance of art to community and society. She continues to be an inspiration to young artists and the next generation of arts instructors at all levels of education in the Yuba-Sutter community. She generously gives her time to curate an annual Art Faculty Art show and has devoted many hours to the Yuba College Fine Arts Alumni group. She makes time to mentor graduates, ensuring that the value of art in her community will never be lost. She has devoted her career to promoting the arts and without her devotion to the importance of art, the artistic community of the Yuba-Sutter area would not be what it is today.